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I had great difficulty in obtaining wood wherewith to make the boxes which I have just despatched, and as to any help in the way of making them, it was needful, after I had bought up at great expense all the old boxes in the town, to put them together with my own hands, which are now so blistered with the use of the hammer and saw that I can hardly hold my pen. Necessity has no law; from cooking downwards I have to do almost everything. Insects are very rare here. I had collected a few dozens and laid them on the house-top at night to dry in a sheet of paper, as the weather had been damp; but in the morning I had the mortification to find them all gone except some of the legs and wings, which vexed me the more as many of them were new. I shall recommence collecting immediately.

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The first species described is a variety of *A. pectinata*, or silver fir, which differs from it in having the branchlets smooth which in the congener are pubescent, and the name of *leioclada* is proposed to be affixed to it. Tournefort, who noticed it near Trapezas, considered it to be absolutely identical with the common species of the Alps and Pyrenees. It was found on the higher range of the Caucasus by the author of the 'Flora Caucasica,' though he has not given the locality, and branches were sent by Sovitz, which he had gathered on the range of Adshar, above Guriel, where it was also seen by Nordmann. Although it cannot be positively asserted, the inference may be drawn, that its place is below that of the following species.

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No. 3 appears to be a variety of spruce, to which the inappropriate name of P. orientalis has been given; why not caucasica? The author first noticed it in the loftiest mountains of Imeritia, and Nordmann has since observed it in Upper Mingrelia, and forming whole forests between Guriel and the Adshar mountains.

The foliage is shorter by one half than that of the common spruce, and the spiculæ are quadrangular like those of that species; sharp, but not prickly; not binary as Tournefort asserts, but grow singly as in the common spruce.

It is a lofty, and, from the elevated sites at which it was observed, is no doubt a hardy and desirable tree, but from the observation of the timber, compared with that of A. Nordmanni, must be considered as less valuable than that magnificent species. Neither the *Pinus Abies* (Lin.) nor any species of larch have yet been discovered in the Caucasus.

PINUS.

1. Is the *P. maritima* of Lambert, one of the varieties of *P. halepensis*, and that which I consider to be the more hardy of the three; it grows on the shores of Abshasia, near Pezundan, the ancient Pithyus.

2. "P. Laricio constitutes forests on the western summits of Tauria, descending even to the shores, but never passing to the northern declivities. The author also has specimens from Gelindshik, a port on the eastern shore of the Black Sea, 100 leagues distant from the mouths of the Hypanis."

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If we admit any portion of the forests he describes to be composed of the true *Laricio* it leads to an important observation on the habitat of the species. Between Tauria and Corsica there is a difference of three to four degrees of latitude, which is a considerable space, but is increased exceedingly by the relative climate of the two seas. Accordingly, whilst the tree is placed in Corsica at an elevation of 2000 to 3000 feet, it descends to the shore of the Black Sea, and whilst it resists the milder climate of the western slopes of Tauria it is unable to face the Boreal blasts of the steppe which assail the northern face of the chain.

There is no mention made of P. taurica, and it seems clear that the tree mentioned inhabiting Tauria as Laricio, is that species which the author considers synonymous, but which are quite distinct. The question is, are there two, or are we to consider that the P. taurica is that which takes the place above the halepensis in Caucasus? It is very probable that both species exist and that the Caucasian may be the true Laricio, the Taurian being our taurica or Pallasiana. In case there be only one species, it takes the middle rank in this region and represents the Laricio and P. hispanica of the south of Europe, being a little hardier than those species. I have little doubt that this is the true state of the case, and it must be repeated that it is next to impossible to decide a species of Pinus from specimens of branches in herbals, on which testimony part of this report seems to be founded.

P. sylvestris. We have a description of two or three species under this head, owing to the habit of the writer of generalizing, and his reluctance in admitting species: that which he mentions as being found, though rarely, on the highest summits of Tauria, the elevation of which range is barely within its natural zone, whilst it forms entire forests on the central Caucasus, appears to be our *uncinata* of the Pyrenees. That mentioned as inhabiting the subalpine regions of the Terek, which is also the P. sibirica of Ledebour, must be referred to the same species, thus confirming our view in placing it above the common P. sylvestris. The differences he mentions in the foliage constantly occur in these trees, and are not sufficient either to cause the removal from one, or the constituting another species upon them, the only real difference being in the cones.

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There is no mention made of P. taurica, and it seems clear that the tree mentioned inhabiting Tauria as Laricio, is that species which the author considers synonymous, but which are quite distinct. The question is, are there two, or are we to consider that the P. taurica is that which takes the place above the halepensis in Caucasus? It is very probable that both species exist and that the Caucasian may be the true Laricio, the Taurian being our taurica or Pallasiana. In case there be only one species, it takes the middle rank in this region and represents the Laricio and P. hispanica of the south of Europe, being a little hardier than those species. I have little doubt that this is the true state of the case, and it must be repeated that it is next to impossible to decide a species of Pinus from specimens of branches in herbals, on which testimony part of this report seems to be founded.

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We are not informed if the whole range of the Caucasus has been examined, and neither the absolute or relative elevations at which the species are found are perfectly given in this work. The difficulty of forming a correct judgement on these points as well as that ascertaining the exact extent of the ranges mentioned is increased by the want of good maps. From the correctness with which the species are described, however, and the care which has been taken to place them before the reader, an approximation may be made to the attainment of this object. In commencing by the southern coast of the Black Sea, and following the ascending series, we have successively P. halepensis, P. Laricio (Auctorum), Abies leioclada (var. of Common Silver Fir), A. Nordmanni, A. orientalis, P. uncinata and varieties. This arrangement corresponds very nearly with that of the Pyrenees, the upper zone being formed of the hardier species of the group of P. sylvestris, with which are mixed the A. orientalis and A. Nordmanni, which attains a very high elevation, and is succeeded by A. leioclada, P. Laricio, and P. halepensis, that of the Pyrenees in running a line across Catalonia being P. uncinata and sylvestris, A. pectinata, P. hispanica, P. Pinaster, and P. halepensis. The chief difference is in the existence of the spruce, which is wanting in the Pyrenees, and the substitution of P. Laricio (or probably taurica), for the hispanica in the middle region. In both chains the Silver Fir predominates over the other species, and in both the larch is wholly wanting.

In addition to more accurate information as to the actual zones or order of superposition, we should have been glad to know what tree forms the next parallel to the region of firs. In the corresponding region of Europe the beech holds that place, and it would be interesting to ascertain whether in that part of Asia it retains its position or is replaced by some other genus.

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The power of resisting the attacks of insects which most probably proceeds from the nature of the sap, is of immense importance in the economic value of the tree. I think the wood of P. Cembra possesses the same quality. A remark has been made to me respecting the softness of this latter species as affecting its durability. Neither hardness nor softness of texture in timber are positive proofs either of durability or of the contrary. Some oaks, as the Ilex, and some American species are both hard and heavy, yet are valueless as to duration. It may be doubtful whether the heart wood of P. Cembra would bear much exposure to damp, but with the outer layers which contain the turpentine it is of very great durability. I suspect the same qualities belong to the Cedar of Lebanon, while the testimony is positive that it was used for the roof of the Temple, and there is no doubt that in a dry climate, protected from the vicissitudes of weather, it might last during periods, for which its texture apparently makes it quite unfit when exposed to a humid atmosphere.

It is to be hoped that means will be taken by those individuals as well as bodies who have correspondents at Odessa, to procure the introduction of seed of these species, more especially of the *A. Nordmanni*, which appears to be the most valuable of them.

It is impossible to close this subject when the variety of species are called into question, without remarking on the neglect with which this important subject is still treated by the Government. With the most ample means, of every kind, with gardens and parks, of which the extent and capabilities are the admiration of every one, we do not possess a common public botanical garden or arboretum for study or for reference. This circumstance we cannot but consider as disreputable and disgraceful to the Government and to the country, immense sums being annually expended in the department to which it properly belongs without a thought being cast on the advancement of science.

Primitiæ Floræ Sarnicæ, or an Outline of the Flora of the Channel Islands of Jersey, Guernsey, Alderney, and Serk, &c. By Charles C. Babington, M.A., F.L.S., F.G.S., &c. &c. Longmans, and Baillière, 1839.

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The occasional remarks and descriptions are numerous, and of such a nature as to be interesting, as before intimated, to botanists in general, and not merely to those who have an opportunity of visiting the islands. They include critical remarks on differences, corrections of erroneous descriptions, investigations of synonyms, &c.; and throughout much regard for accuracy and much acuteness of observation are demonstrated, and much sound information is conveyed.

The preface contains, with other matters, an historical sketch of the little that had previously been done in the botany of the islands, beginning with the time of Ray, a short geographical notice of them, and a sketch of their geological structure; the last from the pen of F. C. Lukis, Esq. of Guernsey. It concludes with an expression of

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Mr. Babington has also recently published a Supplement to his 'Flora Bathoniensis,' containing numerous additions to that little work.

PROCEEDINGS OF LEARNED SOCIETIES.

ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

Mr. Waterhouse exhibited a new species of Hare from the collection made for the Society by the late Mr. Douglas, and proposed to characterize it under the name of *Lepus Bachmani*: he thought it probable that the species had been brought from California. It was thus described:

LEPUS BACHMANI. Lep. intensè fuscus, pilis fuscescenti-flavo nigroque annulatis; abdomine sordidè albo : pedibus suprà pallidis, subtùs pilis densis sordidè fuscis indutis : caudd brevi, albd, suprà nigricante, flavido adspersd : auribus externè pilis brevissimis cinerescenti-fuscis, internè albidis, ad marginem externum, et ad apicem flavescentibus obsitis : nuchd pallidè fuscescentiflavá.

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hope, in which we concur, that the attention of botanists may be attracted to a field probably far from being exhausted, and a request that those who may be so fortunate as to add new species or to observe new localities will communicate them to the author at his publisher's, that they may be employed in the preparation of a new edition. Whenever this appears, and we should expect it to be soon called for, we trust that one blemish, against which, at the risk of appearing hypercritical, we must protest, will be removed, namely, the commencing of substantive trivial names, and those formed from the proper names of persons, contrary to usual custom, with a small letter.

Mr. Babington has also recently published a Supplement to his 'Flora Bathoniensis,' containing numerous additions to that little work.

PROCEEDINGS OF LEARNED SOCIETIES.

ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

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